

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09397 01 OF 02 091250Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

----- 115629

R 090950Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5282

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 9397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO MARCOS JULY 7 SPEECH ON US BASES

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 9245

SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE REPORTAGE AND EDITORIAL COMMENT ON MARCOS JULY 7 SPEECH ON US BASES. THEMES EVIDENT IN EDITORIAL COMMENT ARE: (A) BASES SHOULD AND WILL REMAIN IN USE BY US ALTHOUGH THEIR ACTUAL LAND AREA MAY DIMINISH; (B) CRITICAL CONSIDERATION IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS IS EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY WHICH MUST CEASE; (C) SPANISH MODEL MAY BE BEST ONE FOR CONTINUED USG USE OF BASES; (D) GOP MUST PLAN CAREFULLY FOR BASE TURNOVER TO AVOID ECONOMIC DISLOCATION. ANOTHER THEME, PARTICULARLY NOTICEABLE IN VALENCIA COLUMN, IS THAT US CANNOT AFFORD TO DO WITHOUT PHILIPPINE BASES IF IT IS TO CONTINUE PLAY ROLE IN WESTERN PACIFIC. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MANILA 09397 01 OF 02 091250Z

1. ON JULY 8 ALL MANILA PAPERS FRONT PAGED PRESIDENT MARCOS JULY 7 SPEECH CALLING FOR GOP CONTROL OVER US BASES. HEADLINE IN BULLETIN AND EXPRESS WAS "RP SEEKS CONTROL OF BASES," WHILE TIMES JOURNAL ACCOUNT HEADLINED "RP INSISTS ON CONTROL OF BASES." PAPERS CARRIED COMPLETE TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. STORIES WERE STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTAGE OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WITH MOST EMPHASIS LAID ON GOP PLANS (A) TO PUT BASE AREAS TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC USE AND (B) TO PRESS FOR TALKS WITH USG ASAP.

2. BULLETIN'S ACCOUNT STRESSES THAT GOP IS MERELY WAITING FOR WORD FROM US ON THE DATE FOR NEGOTIATION OF MUTUAL DEFENSE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND BASES AGREEMENTS. IT POINTS OUT THIS WAS FIRST TIME PRESIDENT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED GOP INTENT TO SEEK REMOVAL OF "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY," WHICH IT DESCRIBES AS "THE STATE OF GENERAL OR PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL LAW OR JURISDICTION OF LOCAL TRIBUNALS." BULLETION SPECULATES THAT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT ARRANGEMENTS HE INTENDS FOR USE OF BASES IT COULD BE "INFERRED THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE "AKIN TO THE ARRANGEMENTS US HAS WITH SPAIN."

3. REGIME SPOKESMAN VALENZIA IN HIS JULY 8 BULLETIN COLUMN STRESSED PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR ELIMINATION OF "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY." QUOTE: WE WANT OUR SOVEREIGNTY INTACT OVER ALL THE LAND WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES OF OUR NATION.THE UNITED STATES CAN STAY IF THEY CAN RESPECT THESE CONDITIONS. IN FACT, WE WANT THEM TO STAY IF THEY CAN GIVE US THOSE CONCESSIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY GRANTED (SIC) TO SPAIN AND OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE MILITARY AND NAVAL INSTALLATIONS. END QUOTE. VALENCIA CONTINUES: QUOTE: IN SO MANY WORDS, WE WANT THE AMERICAN BASES TO REMAIN ON A RENTAL BASIS.END QUOTE. COMMENTING ON USEFULNESS OF BASES TO US VALENCIA SAYS: QUOTE: THE US CAN AFFORD TO PULL OUT OF THE PHILIPPINES ONLY IF SHE WERE PULLING OUT ENTIRELY FROM THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC. NO MILITARY OR NAVAL ARRANGEMENT WITH ANY OF OUR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES WILL GIVE THE US A SENSE OF SECURITY UNLESS THE PHILIPPINE BASES WERE MAINTAINED BUT WE CANNOT ALLOW THOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MANILA 09397 01 OF 02 091250Z

BASES TO REMAIN UNDER TERMS LESS THAN HONORABLE TO US. END QUOTE.

4. LEAD EDITORIALS IN JULY 9 MORNING PAPERS ALL DEAL WITH BASES. EXPRESS SAID GOP DECISION TO TAKE OVER BASES SHOULD NOT SHOCK US AND OBSERVERS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SEA. IT IS A "LOGICAL STEP" SINCE THE PHILIPPINES COULD NOT MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE POSTURE VIS-A-VIS ITS NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY

PRC AND COMMUNIST STATES OF INDOCHINA, NOR STRESS NEED FOR EXPANDED RELATIONS AND PREACH GOSPEL OF SELF-RELIANCE WHILE AMERICAN TROOPS QUOTE: CONTINUE TO USE WITH IMPUNITY THE AMERICAN BASES FOR PURPOSES THAT ARE INTRINSICALLY ABHORENT TO INDEPENDENCE AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE. END QUOTE. EXPRESS EDITORIALIST ASSURES, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION DOES NOT MEAN QUOTE: TERMINATION OF RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE US, END QUOTE SINCE MARCOS INDICATED GOP READY TO ENTER INTO NEW ARRANGEMENTS WITH US ON BASES. NOTING MARCOS ASSURANCE OF SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED US ROLE IN PACIFIC, EXPRESS EDITORIALIST EMPHASIZES GOP WISHES TO GO TO NEGOTIATION TABLE AS SOVEREIGN REPUBLIC QUOTE: STRIPPED OF THE COLONIAL YOKE OF YESTER-HEARS. END QUOTE.

5. IN EDITORIAL "END TO EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY," JULY 9 TIMES JOURNAL ASSURES QUOTE: THERE WILL BE NO TOTAL DISMANTLING OF THE BASES. END QUOTE. EDITORIALIST INTERPRETS MARCOS COMMENT THAT BASES WOULD BE PUT TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC USE TO MEAN QUOTE: DIMINUTION OF THEIR AREA END QUOTE BUT NOT TO EXTENT THAT THIS WOULD AFFECT THEIR USEFULNESS TO USG FOR PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THERE SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO SUPPORT US IN MAINTAINING ITSELF AS PACIFIC POWER. BULLETIN TODAY EDITORIAL ON JULY 9 AFTER SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, IDENTIFIED THREE BODIES OF OPINION IN THE PHILIPPINES: (A) THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE GOP TO HAVE MORE CONTROL OVER THE BASES, (B) THOSE WHO PREFERRED STATUS QUO, (C) THOSE WHO WANTED PHILIPPINES RETURN OF THE BASES. BULLETIN EDITORIALIST COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT'S POSITION WAS BOLD ENOUGH IF ONE CONSIDERES FEELINGS OF THOSE WHO ARE "SENTIMENTALLY ATTACHED" TO THE US, IT IS NOT A DRASTIC ONE NOR ONE THAT IS NECESSARILY UNJUST TO THE US. QUOTE: THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSIDERATION IS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MANILA 09397 01 OF 02 091250Z

THE BASES ARE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONTROLLED BY THE PHILIPPINES. THAT IS THE SITUATION IN SPAIN WHERE THE US ALSO MAINTAINS MILITARY FACILITIES. END QUOTE. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT GOP WANTS BASES TO REMAIN AND SEEKS QUOTE: TO MAINTAIN THE HISTORICAL ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. BUT THE PHILIPPINES WOULD STICK OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB IN SOUTHEAST ASIA WHERE THE RULE IS AGAINST FOREIGN BASES, IF IT DID NOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY PRINCIPLE. END QUOTE.

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09397 02 OF 02 091317Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 (ISO) W

----- 115602

R 090950Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5283

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 9397

6. IN HIS COLUMN IN BULLETIN JULY 9, VALENCIA LEADS
OFF: QUOTE: PRESIDENT MARCOS SAYS THE AMERICANS CAN KEEP
THEIR BASES IF THEY ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THAT THE PHILIP-
PINES IS SOVERIGN OVER ALL PORTIONS OF THEIR NATIONAL TER-
RITORY, THAT THE AMERICANS CAN KEEP WHAT THEY CAN USE FOR
BASES BUT THE EXTRA AREAS WILL HAVE TO BE UTILIZED BY
THE FILIPINOS FOR PRODUCTION. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE
SIMPLE PROPOSALS? END QUOTE. VALENCIA THEN EXPLAINS
AMERICANS DO NOT WISH TO SUBMIT TO AUTHORITY OF FILIPINO
COURTS, FEARING FILIPINO JUDICIARY MANY NOT DO THEM JUSTICE.
HE CONTENTS US FORGETS IT WAS AMERICANS WHO SET UP
JUDICIAL SYSTEM IN PHILIPPINES AND POINTS OUT
THAT AMERICANS DON'T MIND FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS
OVER THEIR CRIMES IF IT'S IN SPAIN OR SOME OTHER EUROPEAN
COUNTRY.

7. NOTABLE EXCEPTION TO REPORTING ON BASES IS FRONT
PAGE STROY IN EVENING POST JULY 9 ENTITLED "ATROCITIES BY
US BASE GUARDS BARED." ARTICLE BASED ON ALLEGED INTERVIEWS
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PAGE 02 MANILA 09397 02 OF 02 091317Z

USMTIZENS#CONCERNS MAULING AND SHOOTING INCIDENTS AT SUBIC AS WELL AS ACCOUNTS WOMEN "SUBJECTED TO INDIGNITIES." FYI: EVENING POST IS PUBLISHED BY ANTI-AMERICAN KERIMA POLOTAN WHO IS PROBABLY UNHAPPY MARCOS HAS ESPOUNDED "MODERATE" LINE ON BASES, I.E., THAT HE WANTS US TO CONTINUE USING THEM. KERIMA IS VERY MUCH PART OF GROUP THAT WISHES US OUT OF PHILIPPINES ENTIRELY. END FYI.

8. SO FAR THERE HAS ONLY BEEN ONE EDITORIAL CARTOON ON BASES DEVELOPMENTS. TIME JOURNAL OF JULY 9 SHOWS TWO FILIPINO FARMERS OUTSIDE CLARK AIR FORCE BASE GATE LOOKING AT TWO LARGE HANGERS SURROUNDED BY PLANES AND HELICOPTERS. ONE FARMER SAYS TO THE OTHER, QUOTE: DO YOU THINK THEY WILL LEAVE ONE TO US FOR A SOUVENIR? END QUOTE.

9. COMMENT: EDITORIALS ON MARCOS SPEECH ARE RELATIVELY BALANCED, WITH EDITORIALISTS STRESSING: (A) BASES SHOULD AND WILL REMAIN, ALTHOUGH THEIR ACTUAL AREA MAY DIMINISH, (B) CRITICAL CONSIDERATION IN NEGOTIATING IS EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY, WHICH MUST CEASE, (C) SOME SORT OF SPANISH (OR RENTAL) ARRANGEMENT MAY BE BEST DEVICE FOR US TO CONTINUE USING BASES, (D) GOP MUST PLAN CAREFULLY FOR BASE TURNOVER TO AVOID ECONOMIC DISLOCATION. ANOTHER THEME RUNNING THROUGH REPORTAGE AND EDITORIALS BUT MOST BLATANT IN VALENCIA'S COLUMN IS THAT US CKZVBOT AFFATKTRO DO WITHOUT PHILIPPINES IF IT IS TO CONTINUE PLAYING ROLE IN WESTERN PACIFIC. STRESS ON THIS THEME SUGGESTS POSSIBLE NECESSITY IN HIGH PLACES HERE THAT US STRATEGY REVIEW MIGHT DECIDE BASES NO LONGER MEET US NEEDS. PURNELL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA09397
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750237-0038
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750773/aaaacnfa.tel
Line Count: 255
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 9245
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS REACTION TO MARCOS JULY 7 SPEECH ON US BASES CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006